

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NU  
SUBJECT: UDEL DEMANDS SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION

REF: MANAGUA 0370

SUMMARY: THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL) AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE DEMANDED SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERAL PARTY HAS REJECTED THE RESIGNATION CALLS AND REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT OF SOMOZA. END SUMMARY

1. UNDER AN EIGHT-COLUMN HEADLINE, LA PRENSA PUBLISHED JAN. 25 A STATEMENT BY THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL), THE OPPOSITIONIST COALITION FORMERLY HEADED BY PEDRO J. CHAMORRO, DEMANDING THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA. THE UDEL STATEMENT HELD SOMOZA RESPONSIBLE FOR "A PROCESS OF VIOLENCE, CORRUPTION, SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH MURDER, DISAPPEARANCES, TORTURE, AND UNJUSTIFIED IMPRISONMENT" OF THOUSANDS OF PERSONS, CULMINATING IN THE ASSASSINATION OF CHAMORRO. IT NOTED THE PROTEST OF ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY THROUGH AN UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL WORK STOP-  
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PAGE, AND DEMANDED SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION AS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF A GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM BASED ON JUSTICE AND LIBERTY. THE SAME EDITION ALSO GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO THE OFFICIAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN) CALL FOR SOMOZA TO RESIGN REPORTED REFTEL.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE CALLS FOR SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION, THE NATIONAL

COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERAL PARTY ISSUED A STATEMENT THE EVENING OF JAN. 25. THE LIBERAL STATEMENT ATTACKED THE "FRUITLESS ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE A TOTAL STOPPAGE OF THE NATION'S VITAL ACTIVITIES" BY "A HETEROGENEOUS MINORITY" IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW THE CONSTITUTIONALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF SOMOZA. THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY DISMISSING THE DEMANDS FOR SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION AS "UNPOPULAR, ILLEGAL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND CRIMINAL" AND REITERATING THE LIBERAL PARTY'S SUPPORT OF AND CONFIDENCE IN SOMOZA.

3. ALSO ON JANUARY 25 THE AGUERISTA FACTION OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, THE AUTHENTIC (AUTENTICO) CONSERVATIVES AND THE FACTION OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY THAT IS NOT IN UDEL, SUBSCRIBED TO A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEF THAT THE ONLY WAY THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION COULD BE NORMALIZED AND DEMOCRATIZATION BEGUN PEACEFULLY AND WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION WAS FOR SOMOZA TO RESIGN. THEY CALLED ON THE LIBERAL PARTY (PLN) AND ALL ACTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY TO ADHERE TO THIS SOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT UDEL HAD PLANNED TO ISSUE THE STATEMENT CALLING FOR SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION ON THURSDAY, JAN 26. TO COINCIDE WITH TODMAN'S VISIT BUT DECIDED TO ADVANCE THE DATE AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT. UDEL LEADERS EXPECT THAT THEIR DEMAND FOR THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR CALLS BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. THIS, HOWEVER, IS FAR FROM CERTAIN. BOTH ARE LEERY OF BEING DRAWN SO DEEPLY INTO WHAT THEY SEE AS OPEN POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT. SOMOZA OPPOSITIONISTS  
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HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SOMOZA CANNOT BE FORCED TO RESIGN THROUGH NON-VIOLENT MEANS AND THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO STAGE MASS ACTIONS WHICH, THOUGH RESULTING IN BLOODSHED MIGHT PERSUADE THE NATIONAL GUARD TO WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM SOMOZA.  
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